

Clark County DUI Taskforce honored during OPO awards banquet

Written by George Browning

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The Clark County DUI Taskforce has again been honored during the annual OPO Awards Banquet hosted by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) in Carmel at the Ritz Charles.

The Taskforce was honored as the Best Medium Size DUI Taskforce in the State of Indiana during the awards banquet held on Friday, November 9. This was the eighth time the Taskforce has received the award and the ninth time in the last 10 years. The Clark County DUI Taskforce is comprised of several local police departments including: Charlestown Police Department, Sellersburg Police Department, Clark County Sheriff's Office, Jeffersonville Police Department and Clarksville Police Department.

"I am glad Chief Mark Palmer (Clarksville) and David Maier are on Board," stated Sgt. Terry Braswell of the Charlestown Police Department. Braswell has been the Clark County DUI Taskforce Coordinator for the past three years. Prior to the county wide position, he was the Charlestown Police Department Coordinator for nine years.

The Clark County DUI Taskforce worked 822.25 hours and made 281.25 physical arrests. The Taskforce made 17 Underage Drinking arrests; 208 Criminal Misdemeanor arrests; 31 Speed-16-20 MPH Over arrests; 148 Misdemeanor DUI arrests and 34 Criminal Felony arrests, just to name a few of the arrests made during the Taskforce patrol hours.

Braswell was quick to give credit to the Taskforce working as a team to make the streets safer in Clark County.

"This is a team effort with all officers and agencies working to make Clark County safer. It's a pride thing now with the guys making a concerted effort to get drunk drivers off the street and lower alcohol related crashes and fatalities," Braswell continued.

According to Braswell, the Taskforce has added a new way of checking drivers since he became the Coordinator. The Taskforce is now working with the Indiana State Police Post 45 and Sgt. Manville Nagle on DUI Sobriety Check Points throughout the year.

Along with plaques to honor the award winning Clark County DUI Taskforce, they also received a \$3,000 equipment grant from Indiana Criminal Justice Institute for DUI Awareness and traffic enforcement.